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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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CHARGE TO

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PRIORITY

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Origin

SENT TO: Embassy OTTAWA 496

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Info:

ELITE EYES ONLY FOR THE AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

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( ) RELEASE

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DATE 10/22/62  
The following text of message to be delivered to Prime Minister  
FOI, EO or PA exemptions

Diefenbaker:

( ) CLASSIFY 25

TS authority 30

( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) 8 or ( ) C, OADR

My dear Prime Minister:

I am asking Ambassador Merchant to deliver to you the text of a public statement I intend to make today at 1900 hours Washington time. It is occasioned by the fact that we are now in the possession of clear evidence which Ambassador Merchant will explain to you, that the Soviets have secretly installed offensive nuclear weapons in Cuba, and that some of them may already be operational.

As you will see from my speech, I consider that the situation calls for the immediate execution of certain quarantine measures whose object is to prevent the introduction into Cuba of further nuclear weapons, and to lead to the elimination of the missiles that are already in place.

I am sending Chairman Khrushchev a personal message making it clear that these latest actions of his government in Cuba constitute an unacceptable threat to the security of this hemisphere, and I am

Drafted by:

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

G - Mr. U. Alexis Johnson

Clerical:

S/S - Mr. Little

EUR - Mr. Tyler

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expressing the hope that we can resume the path of peaceful negotiation.

I am also requesting an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council. I have asked Ambassador Stevenson to present on behalf of the United States a resolution calling for the withdrawal of missile bases and other offensive weapons in Cuba under the supervision of United Nations observers. This would make it possible for the United States to lift its quarantine. I hope that you will instruct your representative in New York to work actively with us and speak forthrightly in support of the above program in the United Nations.

It is most important that we should all keep in close touch with each other, and I will do all I can to keep you fully informed of developments as I see them.

Very truly yours,  
John F. Kennedy

RECEIVED  
JAN 14 1962  
STATE DEPT  
WASHINGTON

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